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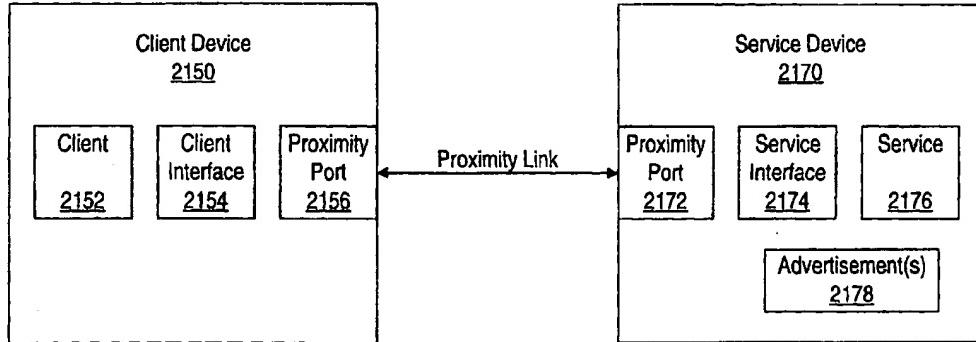
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROXIMITY DISCOVERY OF SERVICES



(57) Abstract: A service discovery protocol may allow clients to discover services on a proximity basis. A service device that provides one or more computing services may support a proximity communication link. A client device may form a proximity communication link with the service device. The client device may directly request from the service device a document that describes an interface to access a service provided by the service device. The service device may provide the document directly to the client device over proximity communication link. The document may include a service advertisement for the service, and the service advertisement may include a schema specifying an interface to at least a portion of the service. The client device may use the information from the document to access the service. The client device may support a transport connection in addition to the proximity communication link, and the client device may make the document available to other devices over the transport connection. Thus, the client device may provide a bridge from the transport connection to the proximity communication link so that other devices from a distributed computing environment may access the service.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F9/50 G06F17/30 G06F9/46

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	MUNSON M ET AL: "Flexible internetworking of devices and controls" INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS SOCIETY, 1999. IECON '99 PROCEEDINGS. THE 25TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE IEEE SAN JOSE, CA, USA 29 NOV.-3 DEC. 1999, PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, IEEE, US, 29 November 1999 (1999-11-29), pages 1139-1145, XP010366788 ISBN: 0-7803-5735-3 page 1141, left-hand column, line 25 -page 1142, left-hand column, line 35 page 1143, right-hand column, line 1 -page 1144, right-hand column, last line --- -/-	1-4, 7-9, 16-22, 25-27, 34-42, 45-47, 52-54

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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A	PAGUREK B ET AL: "MANAGEMENT OF ADVANCED SERVICES IN H.323 INTERNET PROTOCOL TELEPHONY" PROCEEDINGS IEEE INFOCOM 2000. THE CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS. 19TH. ANNUAL JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE IEEE COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETIES. TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, MARCH, 26-30, 2000, PROCEEDINGS IEEE INFOCOM. THE CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER COMMUN., vol. 3 OF 3. CONF. 19, 26 March 2000 (2000-03-26), pages 91-100, XP001004237 ISBN: 0-7803-5881-3 page 92, right-hand column, line 30 -page 97, left-hand column, line 35	1-54
A	US 5 724 588 A (ATKINSON ROBERT G ET AL) 3 March 1998 (1998-03-03) column 6, line 48 -column 8, line 44	1, 19, 37-39
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